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New Semi or Hybrid Cactus Dahlia "Mrs. Alec Low"

BESSIE · BOSTON · DAHLIAS
1932

TRADE DISCOUNT

We allow a discount of 33 1-3% on orders amounting to \$25.00 and over, or for six or more of one variety. All our collections and Pompons are net prices.

1931 BESSIE BOSTON WINNINGS

Annual Show

Dahlia Society of San Francisco

PALACE HOTEL

AUGUST 20-22, 1931

FIRST PRIZE—Twelve blooms, one variety of Californians: Isabel McElney.

FIRST PRIZE—Ten blooms, new introduction: Mrs. Alec Low.

FIRST PRIZE—Best twelve Californians: Andrew Harper, F. J. March, F. W. Butler, H. E. Manwaring, Isabel McElney, Ivory, Mrs. Alec Low, Regal, St. Dorothy, Starlight, Sunny Jim Rolph, W. H. Waite.

FIRST PRIZE—Six blooms, three-year-old seedling: Ada W. Moulton (not for sale).

FIRST PRIZE—Best collection of Unregistered Seedlings.

FIRST PRIZE—Best 1931 Seedling.

FIRST PRIZE—Five blooms of red dahlia: unnamed 1932-3 introduction.

FIRST PRIZE—Best bloom of any other color than pink, red or yellow: Valentino.

FIRST PRIZE—Basket of mixed dahlias: Lady Belle, Rosalie, Pinky, W. H. Waite, Shudow's Lavender, Joy, F. J. March.

We are proud of these prizes, including eight seconds, as every dahlia on our table was a Bessie Boston origination.

Reflections

WEATHER, while a commonplace subject of conversation, is an important matter to people who grow dahlias for either profit or pleasure. The winter of 1930-1 was the driest year California had ever known and was followed by the hottest summer we Californians had ever endured. Water was short in many sections, as there had been a series of below-normal winters. As many of you know, the rainy season in this state starts in the late fall and continues until April, after which there are only occasional showers.

No, this is not a hard luck story. My gardens were better than ever before. San Mateo users of water were not limited, although conservation was advised, and we used nearly twice as much as in former seasons. Everybody said the Highway Garden was never so beautiful. Plenty of water, frequent hoeing as long as advisable, and then a heavy mulch of barnyard manure, produced a surprising result. Bugs were plentiful, but constant spraying conquered them. Here I would like to recommend to California dahlia growers an Easy Spray. That was what conquered all our pests. For acreage it is expensive, but not for a small garden. For the East, I am quoting from a letter from Mr. Whittaker, Secretary of The Rutledge (Pa.) Horticultural Society: "You will be interested to know that dahlias are 'coming back' here in the East. We recommend the use of Red Arrow Spray, which keeps them free from the pests."

Now, to return to the weather: It rained and rained all December. All the dry creeks, little and big, flowed over their banks, the reservoirs filled up, and at this writing (January 9) we are within three inches of our normal seasonal rainfall. A week's fair weather has been followed by beautiful spring days. The pussy willows and the alders are laden with catkins, and the acacias are coloring a gorgeous yellow. We have forgotten the rains and the frost, and are all looking forward to a happy, prosperous year.*

Distant customers write me that their dahlias brought them much happiness last year. One woman writes: "Such times! But the colorful dahlias have made me forget all my worries. I have worked hours daily among them, and they gave me health and courage * * *."

The sun is shining, and now is the time to wish all who read this a happy, happy new year.

ELIZABETH W. LYMBERY
(formerly Bessie Boston)

*And later it snowed!

January, 1932.

BESSIE BOSTON DAHLIA FARM
San Mateo, California

1931-1932 Bessie Boston Introductions

AUNTIE. I.D. This variety is dedicated to the old-fashioned Auntie who is fast disappearing in this modern world. No, we never had one in our family, but nearly every other family we know has been so blessed. A huge flower which grows right at the top of the stem, facing the sun. Ten-inch flowers are an everyday occurrence. A deep shade of pinkish lavender or lilac. Bushes grow tall, start blooming extremely early, and continue in superabundance until frost. The flower at all seasons has fair depth and holds its center until extremely late. Stems are long and slender, but stiff. An admirable dahlia for exhibiting or cutting. **\$5.00.**

AUTUMN. S. or H.C. A very large flower, typical of autumn: russet, shading to a golden center. This contrast is most striking and original. A bush of this variety will stand out against the predominating reds and yellows in a dahlia bed. Ninety per cent. of the petals roll evenly; the others flatten slightly. Bushes grow tall and sturdily with coarse leaves, and begin blooming fairly early. Abundant blossoms at all times, even when the fall leaves are carpeting the ground. Stem is strong and holds the flower up in all weather. With the surplus buds and first laterals removed, the flowers measure between nine and ten inches. Heavier disbudding, it seems needless to add, will enlarge the size enormously. **\$10.00.**

BURLINGAME. F.D. This dahlia took the prize for the best six blooms of a bi-color in the Palace Hotel Shows of 1929 and 1930. Probably the most admired dahlia by visitors to our garden this year. A fancy, or two-color dahlia of a different shade to anything ever placed on the market. This is a seedling of 1924, and we have hung on to it, slowly accumulating stock, as well as absolutely satisfying ourselves it would always come true. One well known dahlia grower, seeing it from a distance, rushed to the row of bushes, saying "Absolutely new in coloring." The color—ah, there's the rub. A dull gold, heavily flushed and striped with scarlet. Nearly every fancy dahlia produces an occasional flower of solid color. Burlingame has a trick of now and again showing a scarlet blossom on the bush, and at other times a dull gold one. We have tried the experiment of saving the bushes that produce all scarlet and all gold flowers, but the next year they became striped. The plants grow tall and are covered with very large, exceedingly long-stemmed blossoms. They are among the earliest to show color, and the last to cease. As our water meter ticks gaily all through the summer months, we find it advisable to sell some of our surplus flowers. We never send them to the market, because that would require heavy fertilization, in which we do not believe. The only flowers gathered and sold in our gardens are to passers-by. Eastern visitors are shocked to learn that we get only \$1.00 a dozen. Burlingame, we believe, has gone in every mixed bouquet we have picked this summer. It is an irresistible dahlia. Four and five foot stems with only moderate disbudding. The third day of our show, when competition was over and everything was replaced on our table, a big bunch of Burlingame in a gold vase over four feet in height, was a knockout. We are cheerfully recommending this dahlia for any purpose. **\$10.00.**

CAPISTRANO. I. or A.C. Tawny gold, or golden bronze, is the late fashionable coloring of this introduction. The tall growing bushes, with coarse leaves of a dull green, are simply laden with flowers from early to late season. Stems are excellent for cutting. In habit and form it is rather like the oldtimer Regent, but the petals are coarser. Flowers grow to enormous size and are all of perfect incurved form. Pure cactus type. Looking closely at this flower, you will notice a golden light illuminates the center. This variety is admirable for exhibiting, as well as for household use, and nothing will excel it on the bush. We would call it a cut-and-come-again variety. **\$10.00.**

CARESSE. S. or H.C. Our friends have looked at this dahlia and admired it, and then many of them have asked "How are you going to describe it?" It is a combination of old rose, violet and gold, rich and warm. That does not sound particularly attractive, but it is one of the most exquisite colorings we have ever seen. The main color is a decided old rose, the center or inner petals being heavily shaded with gold, with a reverse of faint violet. This is the best we can do. It is one of those beautiful dahlias which nobody can adequately picture. Flower stems grow right out of the spreading bushes, producing admirable stems for cutting or exhibiting. The flower at all seasons is enormous, with loosely rolling petals. Stem is always stiff. Flowers start early, and one bush will always contain several high-class blooms. We have never seen an open center flower. This is one of the most striking and unusual dahlias we have ever introduced. **\$10.00.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER



New Incurved or American Cactus Dahlia "Miss Oliver"

1931-1932 BESSIE BOSTON INTRODUCTIONS—(*Continued*)

CARMELO. S. or H.C. A pastel blending of cream and pink. One admirer called it a peaches and cream combination. Type and color change with the weather, however. We had, by the bye, a very warm season, with the temperature rising on two occasions to 104. When the days were hot, the cream shade predominated and the petals flattened. When the weather was cooler, the pink predominated and the petals rolled evenly. Under all circumstances the flower was beautiful. It always attracted admiration from garden visitors, and we took many orders for it. Flowers are always large, and borne on strong stems. A tall, queenly bush, which will produce quantities of flowers, beginning early. We quote a rough description written in the garden: "On October 6, the bushes are full of flowers, extremely large and well formed, with buds enough to last until Christmas, unless a frost takes them." Alas, a killing frost finished the Bessie Boston gardens the second week in November, and there were no flowers to grace the Christmas table. **\$10.00.**

CELESTIAL. F.D. A top-of-the-stem dahlia which will suddenly flare into bloom about the first week in September. From then on the plants are full of high-class flowers. Color is lilac, with a deep purple reverse. Center of blossom is dark. Flowers glisten with a silvery sheen in the sunshine, and are of immense size, moderately deep, composed of petals broad at the base but pointed at the tips. The dark stems are very long, strong and slender. **\$10.00.**

CERITA. I.D. The deepest shade of cerise. Not red, in any sense. A flower that will combine with pink dahlias. Tall growing bushes covered with flowers throughout the season, which do not burn in the hot weather. Long, fairly wide petals are placed irregularly. Stems are long and good for cutting. Do not plant in a crowded place. Give the plant a chance to expand and the result will be excellent. **\$5.00.**

EL ORO. I.D. If you are one of the changing kind and get tired of a variety after a few years, no matter how good, try this gold. Yes, we have been told again and again that this introduction resembled Jane Cowl. When it was a two-year-old seedling and we had never seen that splendid Eastern variety, we had a dispute over its origin with two excellent dahlia judges. Granted, there is a similarity in these two dahlias, but even the most biased, when they saw the two blossoms placed side by side, admitted the resemblance was slight. Now, to describe the Bessie Boston decorative El Oro. Color with us is a rich, deep gold. Petals are very long and twisting, and artistically placed. Flowers grow on the top of the stem. Bushes grow low and branching, and the flower stalks stand above them. A profusion of extra large flowers will reward the gardener the entire season. **\$10.00.**

FIRE BIRD. I. or A.C. Once upon a time a bunch of this stunning cactus was inadvertently placed on a high pedestal on our table at a show. It was not named, nor for sale, and if it had not been out of our reach we would have pulled it down, as we got tired of answering questions about it. One woman wanted to buy it, and we honestly explained it had not the best stem for cutting. "No matter," she said, "it's the only dahlia in the show that I want, and if I can't have it I am going right out." And she did. The color is fiery orange, and every petal is evenly tipped bright yellow. Petals roll evenly, and the form is incurved. The blossoms are extremely large, and bushes bloom profusely. Deep, dark foliage. The flowers can be used with stems if placed high, but we quite admit the stem is not good. If you use dahlias on your dining table constantly, you will find a bowl of this variety floated a great relief from the pompons and other small types. Cut the stems short and burn them; also burn the leaves. We would appreciate comments on this dahlia. **\$5.00.**

H. E. MANWARING (Illustrated). I.D. The Dahlia Society of San Francisco decided that the best introduction of the season should be named after the Manager of the Palace Hotel, in appreciation of the many courtesies shown to the Society. A committee of one was appointed to make the choice, and this informal decorative was chosen for several reasons: unique coloring, tremendous size and depth, strong stem and perpetual blooming. This is another variety dahlia friends have wished us joy in describing. No description or picture will do the flower justice. Creamy gold, with every petal shaded and edged with a lavender pink. Lavender reverse. Look at the flower one way and it seems flushed with lavender; another way, and it looks flushed with gold. A dark center is one of the marked features noticed even at a casual glance. Petals in sunshine or in shade always glisten with a metallic luster. One of the biggest dahlias grown, and can easily be entered for the largest flower in the show. A sturdy grower, tall and spreading. This variety has an exceedingly coarse leaf, but an ornamental one. The stems are as stiff as rods at all times and carry the heavy flowers well out of the foliage. **\$15.00.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

1931-1932 BESSIE BOSTON INTRODUCTIONS—(Continued)

JUDITH. I. or A.C. Tall growing bushes carry aloft exceedingly large flowers of a brighter yellow than Gertrude Ederle and Rondo. The flower is very incurved, and centers last until the end of the season. Starts to bloom the last of August, so the first flowers are ready for the show. **\$5.00.**

LUMINOSA. I.D. An enormous flower, of fair depth. The name is descriptive of the flower. This is one of those combinations of color which are maddening to describe. The outer petals are a creamy gold, heavily shaded with pink, and the reverse a peculiar shade of pink blended with lavender. The dark old rose center is most striking. In the sunshine the effect is opalescent. Bushes are as stout as trees, with a coarse leaf. They start blooming early, and keep at it continuously. Stems are long and stiff, and the blossoms grow almost at the top of them. The petals are artistically and informally placed. Flowers of this variety will be found splendid for exhibiting, as well as cutting. A bush growing in a garden will always attract attention by the novel shading of the blooms. This description reads much like Manwaring, but the flowers are strikingly different. **\$10.00.**

MADAME CLAIRE. I.D. Many of you may remember Madame Claire as one of the most charming old ladies ever introduced to readers of fiction. To several of us this dahlia has suggested Madame Claire. It is not an "old lady" dahlia by any means, but neither was Madame Claire a typical old lady. Climate will change the form of this dahlia. In the cool sea fogs of San Francisco it will doubtless take a true semi-cactus form, but in the bright sunshine of San Mateo and, doubtless, in eastern climates, it will take the informal decorative type. But the color! That is another new combination. White, shading to mauve on the outer petals. Mother Nature plays us a trick now and again. Naturally the presumption would be that a flower of this delicate coloring would have lacy, fernlike foliage. But no, it has the coarsest leaves of any variety in our garden, and of an intense dark green. This combination of coloring and foliage will make an outstanding bush in any garden. Starts blooming early and continues to produce flowers profusely. Stems are good and rise right out of the coarse leaves. One of the daintiest flowers imaginable for household use, and will combine with all the lavenders and pinks. **\$5.00.**

MARILYN. F.D. Dahlias are getting too big for household decoration. But three dahlias, arranged in a vase, are always attractive and will give the effect of a bouquet quite large enough for a small house attached to a small garden. Marilyn is quite lovely, and will be found most useful for basket work. We cheerfully recommend this as a most excellent flower for cutting. The color is a delicate pink, with a slight shading of white, and a deeper center. While you can't grow twelve-inch flowers, you can get (at least, we get) flowers ranging from eight to nine inches, all season. Very tall bushes bloom abundantly. This dahlia can be arranged effectively with delphinium. **\$5.00.**

MAYFAIR. I.D. "A war-r-m pink" is the way a Scotch friend of ours described this flower, but it takes a Scotchman to roll the "r's." The brightest shade of clear pink. Nothing like it in coloring, which might be described as startling. Petals are narrow, extremely long and irregularly placed, forming a deep flower of good size. Stems are absolutely stiff and bushes are always laden with flowers. Ours started blooming late in July, and the middle of October were still a mass of color. Blooms held center the whole season. A bright pink that will harmonize with all pinks and lavenders. We used this in our pink basket in two shows for the deep note. Flowers are large enough for exhibition, and will be found a valuable addition to the pinks for household use. Bushes grow moderately tall. **\$5.00.**

MELISANDE. F.D. After all the dahlias were named fairly satisfactorily and we had turned down about fifty suggestions for this variety, somebody suggested Melisande. A big, bold flower on a heavy, stiff stem—one of the stiffest stems we have ever seen, which will stand up straight under the most adverse weather conditions. Unchanging in color, also, when the thermometer hung around 100. "What's the color?" has been asked us many times. Even the men say it is not red. To the feminine eye it is the brightest shade of cerise, with a most decided lavender tint. However, you have to look at the flower sideways to get the latter shading. The formation of the large, deep flower is altogether regular. Bushes grow tall, with coarse dark green leaves, and are very branching. Flowers most generously the complete season. This is a flower that does well in the fogs of San Francisco, as well as in the heat of more extreme climates. Will attract unusual attention wherever placed. An aristocrat in our garden of hundreds of varieties. **\$10.00.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

1931-1932 BESSIE BOSTON INTRODUCTIONS—(Continued)

MISS OLIVER (Illustrated). **I. or A.C.** If we could only offer our readers a blossom of this dahlia or have them see it growing this bright October morning, we would not have a root left to grow. As it is, it has been one of our best sellers. In many ways it is irresistible. Coloring, form and habits of growth are perfect. But, after all, color is the think that attracts most. Miss Oliver is a delicious blend of pink and cream. The pink prevails, but the petals shade to a pinkish cream center. An infinite improvement, in every way, on the old Elise Oliver, which it suggests. Hence the name. A dahlia that has fascinated us since we saw the first bloom in the seedling patch. Bushes grow tall and produce an abundance of very large flowers at all seasons. Foliage is coarse, and of a shade of green that blends with the flower. An invaluable flower for cutting, and exhibiting, as well. Would be classed, according to the new rules, as an incurved cactus. Every petal rolls tightly. Good stem. Flower holds its center the entire season. If you can imagine a pale Valentino in cactus form, you have Miss Oliver. **\$10.00.**

MRS. ALEC LOW (Illustrated). **S. or H.C.** "Oh, boy, what a dahlia," exclaimed Alec Low, when he saw the first three blooms of this semi cactus. Mr. Low is an enthusiastic amateur and a big prize winner, as well as being President of the Dahlia Society of San Francisco. Truthfully, he is one of the most popular presidents any dahlia society in California ever had. Mrs. Low is equally beloved, so it was a pleasure to name this dahlia for her. The flowers are of the largest size, carried on stiff stems and so perfect in form they almost look artificial. Depth is a feature of this variety, and but few dahlias contain so many petals, all rolling evenly. The bushes have been described as showy, and as full of flowers as a rhododendron bush at the height of the blooming season. Plants grow to medium height and branch freely. Color is a deep, unvarying lilac, accentuated by a very dark, orblike center. To prove to the skeptical that this dahlia is worthy of the name, it won the Peninsula Gardeners' Rookwood vase for the best ten blooms of a 1931 introduction, at the 1931 Palace Hotel show. It is our habit to exhibit only at the Dahlia Society of San Francisco's annual show, but we were tempted last year to show a complimentary basket of Mrs. Alec Low at the Alameda (Cal.) Dahlia Society's show (Alameda being Mr. Low's home town), and Mr. Low, the last day of the big San Leandro Flower Festival, placed a bunch on his table there. Both exhibits received many compliments. **\$15.00.**

PINKY. **F.D.** If you like a variety for cutting, or for basket work in a show, grow Pinky. The flowers are large, but not enormous. Stems are extremely long, even with the careless disbudding in a commercial garden. In the past two shows at the Palace Hotel this has been a feature of our exhibit. When the public want dahlias with four or five foot stems, they always choose Pinky. Stems are exceedingly hard, and flowers have the best keeping qualities. Formal decorative, with long, slender petals regularly placed. Another tall grower. It blooms early and continues flowering profusely until frost. A pink that will combine with all other true pinks and lavenders, and will be found to be invaluable for cutting. Our prize basket in the show this year contained Pinky, Lady Belle, Mayfair, Marilyn, W. H. Waite, Shudow's Lavender and Joy. **\$5.00 net.**

PIPOLI. **F.D.** One of our dahlia admirers describes the coloring of this dahlia as "conch shell pink." Perhaps our description is less flowery: A deep coral pink, suffused with gold. The color deepens toward the center. The many long, narrow petals are formally placed, making a flower so deep it is almost ball-shaped. Bushes will produce immense flowers, and are tall and branching. Stems are absolutely stiff. A new coloring that can be used in a bouquet of any of the gold dahlias or colorings like Valentino and Cherub. This has all the points necessary for exhibition. **\$10.00.**

QUEEN BESS. **I.D.** Everybody has a weakness for some color, and we quite admit a partiality for old rose. Do you remember Futurity? This variety resembles it in coloring, only it shades to a creamy tan center. It is a stunning combination. The petals are placed irregularly. Bushes grow tall, with large leaves. The flowers start early and continue throughout the season. Every bush at all times contains four or five high-class blooms with strong stems. Quite good for exhibiting, as flowers are of the largest size. Everybody who has seen this dahlia has admired it, and many have made the comment "Well, this is something new." A very husky grower, branching freely from the bottom. Bushes need plenty of room to spread. If this dahlia had nothing but color to recommend it, it would be a prize winner; but it seems to have every additional good feature. **\$10.00.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER



Informal Decorative Dahlia "Isabel McElney"

1931-1932 BESSIE BOSTON INTRODUCTIONS—(Continued)

SIERRA SNOW. S. or H.C. Authorities have disagreed on the form of this dahlia, but the majority have said it was semi cactus. Petals roll closely in the center of the flower, but gradually widen out. However, at all times they are narrow. Form is recurved. Stems at all seasons are good for cutting, and the size is large. We have furnished many bridal decorations of this variety, combined with Snow White and Salbach's White. In one instance the table decorations of this combination were combined with blue delphiniums. As we have told you before, we like white dahlias, and find a bunch of them in the house always attracted by the maroon dahlias. This is a blossom that will attract in any bouquet. The deepest shade of red, that will harmonize with almost any combination of colors. Can be used advantageously on the show table, as well as for household decoration. We have found that this coloring will blend with almost any wall paper, and even looks well against a taupe background. Flower is extremely large at all seasons. **\$5.00.**

TOPSY. I.D. At last we have it! A deep, wine-colored dahlia. Everybody who saw it fell in love with it. Petals are extremely long, narrow and pointed, forming a splendid big flower grown on a straight stiff stem. Bushes have all the good points: grow tall, luxuriantly, with coarse foliage of crinkly dark green that sets off the mass of deep colored blossoms. Looking closely at a blossom you will discover a black shading which is particularly noticeable in the center petals. For some reason, cut flower customers are always attracted by the maroon dahlias. This is a blossom that will attract in any bouquet. The deepest shade of red, that will harmonize with almost any combination of colors. Can be used advantageously on the show table, as well as for household decoration. We have found that this coloring will blend with almost any wall paper, and even looks well against a taupe background. Flower is extremely large at all seasons. **\$10.00.**



All Types

(Grouped together for convenience)

C denotes cactus; AC American cactus; EC English cactus; HC hybrid cactus; D decorative; P peony.

Below are the new classifications of the A. D. S. Descriptions contain both old and new: Formal Decorative (F.D.), Informal Decorative (I.D.), Incurved Cactus (I.C.), Recurved and Straight Petal Cactus (S.P.C.), Semi Cactus (S.C.).

Pompon dahlias are listed on pages 23 and 24.

A. A. STYVERS (Bessie Boston). I.C. Flowers are at all times large, and carried on fine, long stems. Color is most attractive, amber shaded with salmon rose, with a distinct center of creamy tan, and it is a variety which does not change coloring when grown in different soil and climate. Centers remain closed the entire season. Bushes grow tall and at all times are weighted with flowers, which will outlast nearly every other dahlia in a bouquet. **\$5.00.**

AIMEE HODGENS (Bessie Boston). S. or H.C. Golden bronze. This combination is effected by a slight suffusion of dull red on the reverse of the petals. Perhaps a more exact description would be: a bright gold, with a reddish glow. Perfect type of hybrid cactus, with stem as straight and hard as a cane. Flowers are very large. One of the earliest bloomers, and also one of the freest. Plants will contain as many as ten high-class blooms at one time. Bushes grow tall and spreading, and need plenty of space to expand. Foliage is coarse. A Michigan grower wrote last year, "*** your Aimee Hodgens was wonderful with me. The flowers are a little darker than Jane Cowl and run quite a good deal larger, and I never saw a better plant and stem." **\$5.00.**

ALICE CECELIA (Bessie Boston). I. or A.C. A pure white American cactus, borne on an absolutely stiff stem. Bushes grow very tall, with coarse foliage. They start blooming early, and keep at it as long as there is a flower in the garden, which, in this part of California, usually means Thanksgiving week. **\$2.00.**

ALLURING (Bessie Boston). I.D. Bright gold; every petal edged and shaded with salmon. The effect, at a distance, is golden salmon. The flower, in form and texture, resembles Valentino. This is a distinctly new break in gold and pink shading. The flower is very big, of splendid depth, and a good-cutting stem. The tall-growing bushes carry the flowers well out of the coarse foliage. A plant that will always have many blossoms. **\$5.00.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

ALL TYPES—(Continued)

- AMULET (Oliver-Bessie Boston). I.D.** Amulet is a rich deep brown, slightly suffused with gold and old rose. Amulet has every good quality, such as large deep flowers, very long, branching stems, freedom of production, a center which remains closed, and best of all, the flower will remain fresh in a bouquet when all the rest of the bunch is ready for the compost heap. **\$2.00.**
- ANDREW HARPER (Bessie Boston). I.D.** The color of this dahlia almost baffles description. The outer petals are tan, with a soft shading of pink; the reverse of the petals is sunset pink. Nothing like it in color; and there surely was never a dahlia of which it was harder to get a word picture. Flower is immense, and has depth as well as diameter. Stems are long and stiff as a ramrod. Bushes are husky, tall growers, with coarse foliage, and flower not only early but continuously until Thanksgiving. A dahlia which ranks very high, according to numerous letters. **\$7.50.**
- BALLET GIRL (Bessie Boston). I. or E.C.** A prize winner in England. A bush will contain a variety of blooms. The biggest percentage of the flowers are orange with a white edge, but there are pure orange blooms, white flowers shading to orange, white flowers edged orange, and other variations all on the same bush. **\$1.00.**
- BEAU IDEAL (Bessie Boston). I.D.** This is a Mariposa in decorative form. The color will vary. In some climates the lavender will predominate, and in others, pink. Eastern customers write that all flowers were immense and beautiful. Early and late our bushes are covered with immense flowers borne on long, straight stems. They grow right out of the foliage. **\$2.50.**
- BRUNETTE (Bessie Boston). P.** One of the largest flowers of this type, carried on a long, perfectly stiff stem. Color is a bright maroon with a velvety sheen. Blossom is deep and well formed, with plenty of curling petaloids around the yellow center. Bushes grow very tall and bloom most freely at all times. Under some conditions flowers will assume decorative type. **\$2.50.**
- CAMEO (Bessie Boston). I.D.** A bush of Cameo will be a picture in a garden for many weeks. Ours began flowering the middle of July, and in October were a mass of splendid big blossoms, grown on absolutely stiff stems. It is a variety that will always need a good deal of disbudding, for the buds and laterals grow very quickly. Another tall grower, with coarse foliage. The color is a creamy lavender, decidedly different than any other lavender we have ever offered or ever seen. In bud and in the half open flower the pinkish tone prevails, but in the full bloom there is a decided blue suffusion. Petals are long, narrow and irregularly placed. Stem absolutely stiff at all seasons. Blossoms grow well out of the bushes. The stalks are as big around as an average sized woman's wrist. A San Francisco professional grower says he considers this one of the best 1931 introductions. **\$7.50**
- CANARY (Bessie Boston). F.D.** "Canary is the cleanest yellow I ever grew" was the comment of a visiting Eastern amateur. An exceptional yellow which it will be a joy to grow, as it is one of the earliest varieties to bloom and continues to produce a mass of flowers until the frosts cut the bushes down. A mass of close centered flowers. Will require heavy disbudding early in the season, but very little disbudding is necessary later. Bushes grow tall and very luxuriantly. Give a bush plenty of space to grow. Flowers are very large and evenly formed, and grow on upright, hard stems. This is the best lemon yellow. **\$2.50.**
- CAROL (Bessie Boston). I.D.** A top-of-the-stem variety. The stiff, wiry stems carry the flowers flat on top at all seasons. Bushes grow tall. Will start blooming early in July, if planted in April, and will continue until frost. Color is soft, silvery pink, with a deeper reverse. The deep reverse coloring of the petals is most noticeable in the center of the flower, forming a dark eye. Flowers keep in perfect form the entire season. Petals are very long, fairly narrow, and pointed. There is a slight wave to them. The unusualness of the form is quite noticeable wherever the flower is placed. **\$2.50.**
- CHAMPAGNE (Bessie Boston). F.D.** This immense decorative has been a continuous winner of prizes. Color is delightful, warm autumn shades, varying from burnished copper to a dull golden champagne and chamois. Stem is heavy and holds the massive flower absolutely upright, and the bushes are plentiful producers of blooms. **\$1.00.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

ALL TYPES—(Continued)

CHERUB (Bessie Boston). (Illustrated.) **F.D.** There are many pretty women and many pretty dahlias, but there is an occasional woman and an occasional dahlia whose beauty stands out boldly among all others. Cherub is one of these extraordinarily lovely dahlias. Deepest shade of salmon pink. The effect is heightened by delicate shadings of cream yellow, which also outline the petals. Cherub is a very big flower, regularly formed, and has great depth. Petals are wide and pointed. One of those clean, crisp flowers that last so many days when cut. Bushes grow tall, and sturdily. Leaves are large, but flowers grow well out of the foliage on long, stiff stems. Bushes start blooming early, and always will contain excellent flowers. Combine Cherub, Valentino and Alluring. They make a very charming bouquet. It won the first prize in the 1930 Palace Hotel show for the best pink or old rose dahlia shown on stem. **\$10.00.**

CIRCE (Bessie Boston). **S.P.C.** If you can grow this cactus well, you will have the biggest specimen flowers of any of the English type. It is hardly necessary to add that we have grown flowers of it ten inches across. It will flourish along the seaside. However, at no period does the fine-petalled flower burn. The coloring is a soft, silvery pink, shading gradually to a white center. The petals are very long, very fine and straight, and the bloom is carried on an excellent stem. Bushes are tall and flower freely the entire season. **\$4.00.**

C. M. SADLER (Bessie Boston). **F.D.** An unusually beautiful flower, with a striking combination of colors. The orchid coloring is slightly pinker than the cattleya—a pinkish orchid coloring, with a silver sheen, and a wine-colored reverse. The petals are very irregularly and gracefully placed, forming what some people would call an artistic flower. Size is very large, and the depth equally good. Stems are long and straight. Bushes grow tall, bloom freely, and continue to carry a wealth of blossoms during the fall months. This dahlia has only once been entered for a prize, and that was several seasons ago, when it won the best two-year-old seedling. **\$5.00.**

COMANCHE (Bessie Boston). **I.D.** Naturally, with the Indian name, this is a red dahlia. It is a beautiful scarlet, a great big fellow, with most attractive petalage—long, narrow and curved, with a twist of its own. There are countless rows, forming a flower almost ball-shaped, it is so deep. Stem is good. Bushes grow tall and spreading. The main stalk is almost like a tree, it is so heavy. An early and continuous bloomer. This is a 1930 prize winner, as it won first for the best five blooms of a red dahlia, the second day of the Palace Hotel show. **\$4.00.**

COPPERTOP (Bessie Boston). **I.D.** Copper, illuminated with golden lights and suffused with old rose. Briefly, this is the unique color of this splendid big decorative. The flowers are very large, gracefully formed, and hold their centers very late. Bushes grow low, begin flowering early, and carry their blooms aloft. **\$2.00.**

DADDY BUTLER (Bessie Boston). **I. or H.C.** A persistent prize winner. The color is of the American beauty rose shades, or rosy carmine. Stem is perfect and we never grew a dahlia which was a heavier producer of blossoms. Will last fresh a week when used as a cut flower. **\$1.00.**

DAI DREAM (Bessie Boston). **I.D.** A truly lovely flower of a new and striking combination of pastel shades. Imagine, if you can, a large, deep, full decorative bloom of fawn color, suffused with old rose, with the reverse of the petals tinted rose. Can be grown, with care, to immense exhibition size. Tall, free flowering bushes. This variety created a sensation on an amateur's table at the last Palace Hotel show. **\$5.00.**

DOROTHY DIX (Bessie Boston). **S. or H.C.** An immense blossom of silvery pink of distinct incurved formation. Petals roll very evenly. Stem is perfect, long and stiff. Plants grow tall and sturdily and produce big flowers early and late. Center is always closed. This is one of the largest hybrid cactus we have ever grown and will be found splendid for exhibition and delightful for cutting. A many-times prize winner. **\$3.00.**

EL GRANADA (Bessie Boston). **S. or H.C.** The color is a vivid orange, and the petals twist and interlace, showing at the tips a creamy yellow reverse. The long stem grows well out of the foliage and is absolutely stiff and faultless. The high bushes are covered with large, deep flowers with closed centers, from early until late season. Has won prizes from coast to coast since its introduction, beginning with the Gold Medal for the best six blooms of a three-year-old seedling. **\$2.00.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER



Incurved or American Cactus Dahlia "Ishbel"

ALL TYPES—(*Continued*)

EMPIRE (Bessie Boston). I. or A.C. Bold large flower of raspberry red is composed of many perfectly rolled, incurved petals. The color is deeper at the center and gradually lightens to pure raspberry. Profuse bloomer. Prize winner. **\$2.00.**

FAITH GARIBALDI (Garibaldi-Bessie Boston). F.D. A charming silvery pink. It has great depth as well as large size, and is held up straight on a long, stiff stalk. Every flower is large and perfectly formed. Flowers begin early and late blooms will be large and beautiful. The stem is strong at all seasons. Flowers never show center. We have in former years exhibited this immense decorative at the Palace Hotel and captured three gold medals with it. As a debutante, it was judged the best six blooms of a three-year-old seedling, and the next year, it won with best display of fifty blooms. In 1926, the judges decided it was the best twenty-five blooms in the show, and it is now winning prizes in the Antipodes. **\$1.00.**

F. J. MARCH (Bessie Boston). I. or H.C. "F. J. March was the sensation of my garden this year. Produced a 12-inch bloom the first week in August, and was the talk of the Educational Show held in Butte, August 30," writes a friendly Montana customer. The flower is an enormous one, and one of the biggest dahlias grown of this type. Petals roll evenly, and the form is slightly incurved, especially late in the season. The only flower that was measured in the garden was eleven and a half inches. The color is pure lavender, and does not vary throughout the flower. Should be planted out of the wind, in the full sunshine, and given plenty of space. Bushes grow tall and spreading, with coarse foliage. **\$10.00.**

FLORABUNDA (Bessie Boston). S. or H.C. Literally translated the name means "free flowering." The name suits this hybrid cactus, for one bush contained every day last season, a bouquet of splendid, stiff stemmed flowers. The flower stems are strong as a cane and grew well above the foliage. The most pleasing color is bright gold heightened by a delicate apricot flush. This is a very early and continuous bloomer, with full centered flowers all season. **\$2.00.**

F. W. BUTLER (Bessie Boston). F.D. Out of the hundreds of dahlias exhibited in the amateur class of the Dahlia Society of San Francisco's 1931 show, the judges chose this decorative as the best flower shown by an amateur. "Formal Decorative. This Sweepstakes winner as largest bloom at San Francisco in 1929, at the Palace Hotel show, made a fine impression in its first year in the East. The color is very unusual—halfway between bronze and gold, with copper-brown shadings at the center and with flushes of gold and brown throughout the flower. It is a big, deep flower and certainly very different from anything we have seen." We think this description of Derrill W. Hart, in *The American Home*, is excellent, but we'll have to add that later in the season the flowers, with us, are a deep orange. It is the biggest dahlia we have ever seen, and the depth equals the circumference—possibly as deep as any dahlia grown. The crown flower exhibited measured fourteen inches, and was cut from a bush which had not been heavily disbudded. The same bush produced many fine subsequent blossoms. The stem is strong and heavy. Bushes grow about four feet tall in San Mateo; start to bloom early, and continue in profusion the entire season. **\$15.00.**

GERDA (Bessie Boston). S. or H.C. Distinctive new coloring, verging on the American Beauty rose shades. The flower is a deeper color than any variety on the market in these popular tones. Petals are long and narrow, forming a deep flower. The center of the flower is a burnt rose, gradually shading lighter with each row of petals. Bushes grow tall and luxuriantly, start flowering early, and continue to the end of the season. Stem at all times is stiff. **\$2.50.**

GERTRUDE EDERLE (Bessie Boston.) S.P.C. This large primrose dahlia has been a great help in winning prizes for amateurs all over the world. It is always among the prize winners in mixed collections of hybrids. The long, straight petals form a very large flower which keeps its center the entire season. Blooming starts early and the bushes are always well laden. Stem is rigid and long and carries the flower well above the foliage. Plants grow medium height and will need disbudding as the laterals grow quickly. The flower has unusual keeping qualities. The twelve blooms which won the Santa Barbara Cup in the 1927 Palace Hotel show, were all perfect the third day of the show. **\$2.50.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

ALL TYPES—(Continued)

GOLDEN HORN (Bessie Boston). I.D. "One of the most satisfactory yellows I have ever grown," writes a Maine flower lover. The petals of this decorative are formed regularly enough, but they are long and crinkly; they have a frilly effect, according to the ladies. The coloring is exquisite, bright, bright yellow, shading deeper early in the season at the center of the flower. Bushes grow moderately tall and carry many flowers on excellent stems. The first dahlia to bloom in our garden. Blooms freely; size very large. **\$5.00.**

GORGEOUS ELIZABETH (Bessie Boston). P. The name is most descriptive to the thousands of people who are familiar with dahlias. It combines the best characteristics of the two peonies from which it took its name. Color is a brilliant red gayly tipped gold. Blooms very early and continuously. Bushes grow very tall and ten-inch blossoms on stiff stems continue all season. The average stem is over a yard long. **\$4.00.**

GRACIAS (Oliver-Bessie Boston). I.D. This popular dahlia was given us by the late Miss Elsie Oliver, when a seedling, and in a crude way we tried to show our appreciation of the gift in the name, which means, in Spanish, "thank you." One of the biggest, deepest dahlias ever introduced. The color is yellow, heavily overlaid with oriental red. Stem is first class and holds the flower erect. Very free flowering; starts early and continues all season. Bushes grow low. **\$2.00.**

HEARTSEASE (Bessie Boston). S. or H.C. "Heartsease is in a class by itself. The color is exquisite, every blossom perfect, and so prolific that I can cut seventeen or eighteen full blown flowers at a time." This is quoted from a letter from Maine. A large hybrid cactus of two contrasting shades of orchid. The out-sides of the petals are a silvery lavender, the reverse a much deeper tone. This gives the effect of a cattleya orchid. Form is perfect. Petals are long and closely rolled. Center remains closed the whole blossoming period. Stems are hard and canelike. The bushes grow tall and luxuriantly. Foliage is a dark green. **\$2.50.**

HELEN (Bessie Boston). F.D. A great big flower of soft primrose yellow, borne on good stem. Bushes grow fairly tall. This is the variety which in 1927 won the prize offered by John Dee Wareham, of the Rookwood Pottery, for the best dahlia of its color. Just the shade of the English primrose—not a lemon yellow. Very large, deep, regularly formed flower. An early bloomer, with long strong stems, and at all seasons is large enough for exhibition. **\$3.00.**

HELIO (Bessie Boston). I.D. White, heavily splashed and veined with heliotrope. A large flower, on long, wiry stems. The color is quite unusual, and combines beautifully with all dahlias on the purple tones. The stems, instead of being green, have a purple tone, and the foliage is a very dull, dark green, that combines wonderfully with the stem and the flower. **\$2.50.**

ISABEL McELNEY (Bessie Boston). (Illustrated.) I.D. On The American Home Sunkist Roll of Honor, and winner of the Best Twelve Blooms in the 1931 Palace Hotel show of the Dahlia Society of San Francisco. This is an unusual dahlia in both form and color. The picture will give an idea of the curious pin-wheel shape of the flower, but the color is indescribable. One will have to see it to really appreciate it. Some people say it is watermelon, some old rose, and all agree it is a lovely and new pink. We'll let it go as an old rose watermelon combination. The bushes grow low, but send out long flower stems which are as unbending as a steel rod. Another early show necessitated our planting about the middle of April, instead of the customary May 1, and early and generous bloomers, including Isabel McElney, produced crown flowers by the middle of July. This is a blossom conspicuous wherever placed. Excellent for cutting. The first week in November every bush carried many ten-inch blooms and many buds, on stiff stems. Then Jack Frost took them overnight. Letters from every quarter have praised this charming dahlia, but we are only quoting one: "Your Isabel McElney I consider one of the grandest dahlias I have ever grown. Never had a plant bloom so long with such immense flowers. It made a sensation in our neighborhood. The color was even better than your description, for my flowers had a cast of gold." **\$10.00.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

ALL TYPES—(*Continued*)

ISIBEL (Bessie Boston). (Illustrated.) **I. or A.C.** The largest American cactus we have ever seen. Given a good location, nine and ten-inch flowers are common. One of those very free bud-producing dahlias. Color is a striking combination of two shades of yellow. The outer petals are a bright amber and the center is pure chrome yellow. It is a color combination hard to beat. Stems are very good. Bushes grow tall and spreading. In our row of this variety, the first of October, there were hundreds of buds showing color, and every flower true to form. A prize winner in Eastern shows. **\$4.00.**

IVORY (Bessie Boston). (Illustrated.) **I.D.** "Ivory was a mass of ten-inch blooms all summer, and drew much comment." This is how it performed in Michigan. This immense decorative is creamy white, the shade of old ivory, a color which does not vary from the beginning to the end of the season. A decorative of a most delightful form, composed of long, pointed, waving petals. The center of the flower is a deep cream and the petals a shade lighter at the outer edges. Each petal has a tiny tip of deep cream, and the flower is suffused with cream. Stem is hard and stiff. The bushes will always contain several high-class flowers. Bushes grow fairly tall and flowers late in the season have perfect centers. This was the best flower of any other color than red, pink and yellow in the 1930 Palace Hotel show, and was also among the winning twelve Californians there. **\$5.00.**

JESSIE K. PRESCOTT (Bessie Boston). **I.D.** Deep orange at the center, gradually shading to a creamy orange on the rows of outer petals. The tall bushes are branching and productive of masses of splendid flowers with exceptionally long, good stalks. **\$1.00.**

J. G. WINTJEN (Bessie Boston). **I. or A.C.** Flower is incurved in form; the color a salmon pink. Petals, at the back, are a deeper shade, which shows in the center; and the whole flower is suffused with gold. Stems are long and good, and bushes grow very tall and robust. **\$3.00.**

JOY (Bessie Boston). **F.D.** Won the prizes offered for the best six blooms of a lavender, in two big Los Angeles shows. A clear, silvery lavender, without a trace of white, is the color of this exquisite introduction. Imagine Shudow's Lavender without any white shading, and you have the color of Joy. A big flower which grows exactly on the top of the stem like a chrysanthemum. Grows tall and has beautiful fernlike leaves. Blooms early and late, and at all times profusely. Flower never shows center. **\$3.00.**

JUDGE LEON McCORD (Bessie Boston). **F.D.** "Judge McCord is reckoned here in Adelaide, South Australia, as the best dahlia from America." An enormous flower, grown on an absolutely stiff, upright stem, which does not bend a particle at any season or in any weather. The color is the deepest shade of gold, with a reverse of old rose. Bushes grow to medium height, but the flower stems grow right out of the foliage, and are long and leafless. A regularly formed flower which lasts two weeks on the bush and is excellent for cutting. It is advisable to plant this among the first plantings, as otherwise it may not begin blooming until September 1. **\$5.00.**

KITTIE DUNLAP (Bessie Boston). **I.D.** Kittie Dunlap is not only a beauty, but has every characteristic which endears it to a dahlia grower. Blooms freely all season, has excellent keeping qualities, long firm stems, immense size, and great substance. It is of the delightful shade of the American Beauty rose. The petals are broad but have a slight tendency to roll; the long stems are practically without leaves. **\$1.00.**

LADY BELLE (Bessie Boston). **I.D.** An incomparable pink. The flower, early in the season, tops the stem. The pink is true pink, shading deeper to the center. This variety shows Mariposa blood. The bushes grow exceedingly tall, with luxuriant foliage and an abundance of blooms. One of the earliest dahlias to blossom, and one of the last to go. Center is always closed. One of its best features is exceedingly long, stiff stems. Many of the flowers grow more than a foot above the first pair of leaves. We have seen crown flowers on stems 5 and 6 feet long, on bushes that really produced hundreds of blooms afterwards on 3-foot stems. Our customers who are particularly interested in cut flowers admire Lady Belle excessively, and state the blossoms keep excellently when cut. Petals are very long, narrow and recurved. The form of Lady Belle is rather unusual. Flower has splendid depth. **\$5.00.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER



Informal Decorative Dahlia "Ivory"

ALL TYPES—(*Continued*)

LILY LANGTRY (Bessie Boston). I.D. This is a seedling of the well-known Jersey Beauty, and anyone familiar with the original will not need to be told this. However, the color is deeper, and, in this part of California, the flower is larger and the bushes bloom more freely. The coloring of this new decorative is old rose, with a slight gold suffusion which creates a metallic lustre. It seems hardly necessary to say that the stems are stiff and excellent for cutting. Lily Langtry was the original Jersey Beauty. **\$3.00.**

LYSTRA (Bessie Boston). P. Pale salmon, suffused with yellow and shading to gold at the base of the petals. Flower type is perfect, like Geisha. Petals are long and narrow. Height of the bushes is medium. Blooms early; strong stems. **\$2.00.**

MARIPOSA (Bessie Boston). I. or H.C. Too bad we never kept count of the many prizes this favorite has won. Every season "Beautiful Mariposa" continues to win. The color varies in different climates. With us it is pink, with a dark center. With many others, it is lavender. It is always beautiful. A very large flower of perfect hybrid form, composed of long, narrow, incurved petals which twist and turn. An absolutely firm, stiff stem, which rises at least a yard out of the foliage. A center which is regular and perfect throughout the season. Blooms early and keeps full of flowers the entire fall. **\$1.00.**

MECCA (Bessie Boston). I.D. The best deep red we have ever grown, and we have grown hundreds of them. A delightful coloring of ruby red. A fine big flower which grows on a strong, long stem. A red so pink it will combine with old rose. Petals are irregularly formed making a graceful flower. Plants grow very tall and sturdily and bloom steadily all season. **\$2.50.**

M. H. de YOUNG (Bessie Boston). F.D. Pure old gold, with scarcely any variation in color except perhaps the center is illuminated with a slightly brighter shade. The first flowers do not perceptibly vary from the last ones in coloring. Always a mass of immense deep blossoms, which are borne high on absolutely stiff stems. Prize winner. **\$3.00.**

MINAMOTO'S CRIMSON (Minamoto-Bessie Boston). I.D. From Port Chester, N. Y., a customer writes: "Minamoto's Crimson was the first to bloom in my garden, and in a dry, hot spell I had on my bush eleven very large flowers at one time. It is a beauty, and still blooming on October 13." The flower looks like a giant pinwheel, the petals turning and twisting in an odd manner. Coloring is a warm, rich crimson lake—a red that can be used with pinks. The flower is very large, and will always attract attention because of its coloring and unusual form. The low growing bushes were the earliest in the garden to flower. Blossoms were immense, and borne on long, upright stems. **\$5.00.**

MINAMOTO'S PINK (Minamoto-Bessie Boston). F.D. A deep pink, with no suffusion of lavender. Petals are long and narrow, with an inclination to roll. Flowers are extremely large and borne on very long stems. Good for a cut flower or for exhibition. Bushes grow moderately tall, and are profuse bloomers. **\$4.00.**

MISCHIEF (Bessie Boston). F.D. This dahlia is interesting because it is so strikingly original. The three outer rows of petals are scarlet, and the rest of the flower is white heavily flushed red, the tips being pure white. Bushes grow tall and very luxuriantly. Stem is good. **\$1.00.**

MR. E. LEEDHAM (Bessie Boston). I.D. Our lives are influenced by small events. Many years ago the writer saw her first dahlia show in Santa Cruz, California. The first glimpse enthralled her; she fell in love then and there with this colorful autumn flower. Her enthusiasm was so great, Mr. E. Leedham, one of the exhibitors, honored her by naming his best seedling, Bessie Boston. The seed was sown then for the Bessie Boston Dahlia Farm, but the business was not started until a dozen years later. In memory of Mr. Leedham we have named one of our best introductions for him. The flower is huge, and has great depth as well as diameter. The color is orange scarlet; it does not burn in the sunshine. The stem is very long and carries the flower right on the top of it. Bushes grow very tall and are free producers. They begin flowering early. **\$3.00.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

ALL TYPES—(Continued)

- MRS. H. T. HENNIG (Bessie Boston). F.D.** The "painted dahlia." The dahlia is white—no question about that—but it is delicately painted with bright pink. It just seems as if Nature had taken a white dahlia and dipped a brush in bright pink and touched up many of the petals, adding a wee tip of pale gold to the point of each petal. No two flowers are painted alike. In 1929 we had this dahlia among our seedlings on our exhibition table, and it attracted more attention than any flower in the Palace Hotel show. People were constantly coming up and asking us what it was. In 1930 it again attracted the public's complimentary notice. We doubt if this dahlia can ever be grown over nine inches, but it's a case where beauty, rather than size, predominates. The stem at all seasons is straight. Bushes grow, with us, about four feet tall, and are in bloom at all seasons of the year. Petals are long, narrow and pointed. **\$4.00.**
- NICHU (Bessie Boston). S. or H.C.** The blooms are large, of very incurved shape. Flower is held erect on a strong stalk. A cheerful bloomer which will produce at all parts of the season a mass of clear yellow blossoms, with closed centers. **\$1.00.**
- NIKITA (Bessie Boston). I.D.** An immense, deep flower, of striking and graceful formation. Color, crimson, with a reverse of pinkish tan, and center cream. Petals have a trick of twisting and turning. Bushes are low growing and bloom generously. **\$2.00.**
- NORA (Bessie Boston). S. or H.C.** A large, deep flower; the incurved form most perfect. Every petal is evenly rolled. The color is a deep ruby red. Bushes grew to medium height and were in blossom early, producing a wealth of bloom which showed not the slightest deterioration as long as the season lasted. **\$3.00.**
- OSAM SHUDOW (Bessie Boston). F.D.** The original Osam Shudow was our friend and associate who worked so energetically to bring fame to Bessie Boston dahlias before his untimely death in 1918. The big, heavy, loose petals produce a flower more like a gigantic rose than a dahlia. Color, a delightful old rose slightly suffused with lilac and shading to yellow at the center. No bloom has ever been less than nine inches in diameter and most of them larger. The bush is very sturdy and tall. The flower stem is long, thick and heavy and the blossom comes well above the attractive foliage. One bloom is a bouquet. **\$1.00.**
- OTONO (Bessie Boston). I.D.** This means Autumn in Spanish. The large flower is a brilliant gold, full of metallic lustre, the reverse of the petals is reddish pink. The unfolded center petals are dull red. Stem strong. **\$2.00.**
- POLA (Bessie Boston). F.D.** Big, flaring, blunt-petalled blossoms, regularly formed, held on an excellent stiff stem. The bushes arrest immediate attention. The flower is gold, heavily suffused with sunset pink. The reverse of the petals is the deep color, and the outer petals are slightly tinted. The effect is most striking. What made the row so conspicuous in our garden was the distinctive dark green foliage and the purplish green stems. It was rather startling to see reddish gold flowers on bushes of this color. Bushes grow tall, start blooming early, and continue to flower abundantly all season. **\$5.00.**
- POMPADOUR (Bessie Boston). S. or H.C.** The color, a clear deep royal purple, is most striking when growing out of the very dark green foliage of the bush. Bouquets of lavender and lilac dahlias are enhanced by its addition. Bushes grow tall and luxuriantly. Foliage is pretty and different. Blooms profusely. Stems are straight and strong. **\$2.00.**
- RED KNIGHT (Bessie Boston). F.D.** Pure, brilliant scarlet. Petals are like velvet, with a brilliant metallic lustre. Until mid-season the flowers are very large. Petals are placed regularly, centers remain closed all season. Bushes grow very tall, bloom very early and always bounteously. Stems are particularly long and stiff. **\$3.00.**
- REGAL (Bessie Boston). I.D.** The biggest Bessie Boston origination, with the exception of F. W. Butler. Has been a prize winner throughout the world. In 1926 received the Gold Medal for the best six blooms of a three-year-old seedling, and in 1927 was awarded the Western Horticulture's silver cup for the best twenty-five blooms, winning both at the Palace Hotel show in San Francisco. It is a variety which will produce many ten-inch blooms. The crown blossoms will be at least twelve inches and other flowers of this immense size can be obtained by disbudding generously. Many huge dahlias are rather shy bloomers, but Regal is an exception. The plants grow medium height and are one of the first to bloom. They produce countless high-class flowers on long, rigid stems, which grow well out of the foliage. A delightful and different combination of autumn shades, bronze, heavily suffused with dull old rose, and shading to gold at the base of the petals, giving an effect of burnished copper. **\$4.00.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

ALL TYPES—(*Continued*)

ROMNEY (Bessie Boston). I.D. There are lavender dahlias which have a distinct blue tone, and Romney is one of these. The blue light is observable in the full sunshine, in the shade, or under artificial light, but it could not be classed as blue. The flower at all seasons is large, well formed, with narrow, flat petals. Bushes grow to medium height, we might say low medium, and are always full of stiff-stemmed flowers. **\$2.50.**

ROMULUS (Bessie Boston). I.D. This might be described as a sturdy flower. The bushes grow only moderately tall, but carry a wealth of blooms the entire season, with the strongest upright stems. The color is gold, heavily flushed with orange. This coloring does not vary the entire season. The many rows of petals are exceedingly long and form a large, as well as a deep blossom. Regularly placed. **\$2.50.**

RONDO (Bessie Boston). S.P.C. The flower is very large, and a bright, clear primrose yellow. There is almost a transparency to the fine petals, which are usually straight. Even on the hottest day (and occasional days were hot last summer) the fine petals never burned. Bushes are tall growing and carry an abundance of blooms at all times of the season. Recommended for both cutting and exhibiting. **\$5.00.**

ROOKWOOD (Bessie Boston). I.D. For sheer beauty there is no dahlia like Rookwood. It has been a most persistent prize winner. This decorative is of an entirely new shade of pink: bright cerise rose, without the faintest touch of magenta; and is beautiful under artificial light. The flowers are large, with good depth, and are held aloft on splendid straight stems. The bushes grow low and spreading. **\$2.00.**

ROSALIE (Bessie Boston). F.D. A pure rose pink; very large, compact flower, and an extraordinarily good cut flower. The flower grows nearly at the top of the stiff stem, also. The petals are almost round, and flat, and the flower is very deep. We particularly recommend it to people who want another pink for cutting; but remember that it can be used for exhibiting as well. Bushes are fairly tall and branching. **\$3.00.**

ROSARIO (Bessie Boston). P. True pink. Even the fellow who did not like the peony type could not resist the color. Flowers are very big and carried straight up on long stems free from leaves. Formation is perfect. Plants grow fairly tall and are always covered with blossoms. **\$2.00.**

SALADINI (Bessie Boston). I.D. The color is fascinating, a bright gold, suffused with brownish pink and shading to a tan center. The shading changed but slightly as the season advanced. Stem is long and stiff. Bushes grow about three feet tall and branch freely. Flower is very large and of the new pinwheel formation. From Ohio: "Saladini stands extremes of temperature the best of any we know." **\$2.50.**

SALBACH'S WHITE (Salbach). F.D. This is a big, pure white, carried on a perfect stem. Bushes bloom very freely. Is good everywhere. **\$1.00.**

SANTA BARBARA (Pelicano). I.D. An Achievement Medal dahlia in 1929. A lovely pink. Further description is from originator's catalogue: "The color is true, clear pink. The flowers are enormous and have great depth and good substance. The stems are absolutely perfect, long and stiff, and hold the flowers high above the foliage." **\$5.00.**

SHUDOW'S LAVENDER (Bessie Boston). F.D. Is a great favorite and has won too many prizes to list. The very large bloom is a silvery lavender slightly shading to white. In hot weather, the white will be more marked, but as the season advances, will almost entirely disappear. The stem is absolutely perfect, long and stiff, and holds erect the big blossom. It will bloom constantly and freely from early to late season and never show a center, and also has excellent keeping qualities as a cut flower. One of its most unusual features is the attractive lace-like foliage. The plant is a very tall and robust grower. **\$2.00.**

SNOW WHITE (Bessie Boston). F.D. An enormous blossom of absolutely pure white—white as a lily—not the slightest tinge of yellow or pink at any time of the season. Plants grow tall and bushy. The flower is most attractive in form, having depth as well as size. Petals are regularly placed, long and wide, but the flower is never stiff. Stems are long and strong, but the plants should be in the sunshine, as it thrives in hot weather. All stems. This decorative blooms early and produces flowers generously all the blossoming months. **\$7.50.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER



New Informal Decorative Dahlia "H. T. Manwaring"

ALL TYPES—(*Continued*)

STANFORD CARDINAL (Bessie Boston). F.D. A very big bloom of deep, rich red, with an attractive, as well as artistic form. No, the petals are placed quite regularly, but have a little twist entirely different from any other flowers of this type. Bushes grow tall, and late flowers will equal early ones. Stems are ideal: long and stiff. Centers remain closed until the season ends. A dahlia which everybody seems to like. **\$3.00.**

STARLIGHT (Bessie Boston). S. or H.C. This immense hybrid in 1930 won a first prize in the Englewood (N. J.) Dahlia Society's show, another in the Bergen County (N. J.) show, and was judged the best five blooms of a gold or yellow in the Palace Hotel show in San Francisco. Pure unshaded gold is the color. It is a gold shade which combines with everything in the average house decorations. Flower is huge and there seems to be no limit to the size it can be grown. Bushes are fairly tall, robust and branching. They start to bloom early and are always laden with perfect center flowers. Stem is incomparable; long, rigid, and carried well above the leaves. **\$5.00.**

ST. DOROTHY (Bessie Boston). H.C. This is a huge flower of lavender-pink, shading to almost white toward the center. Our row of this hybrid cactus started blooming about the middle of July, and never stopped until frost. The size, late in the season, was large. Stems are long and stiff, and grow right out of the bushes. Visitors to the Highway garden have remarked that St. Dorothy was pink; others, lavender. To us it seems a lavender-pink. This is a pastel coloring that is distinct from anything listed. The bushes only grow to medium height, but are very bushy, and at all seasons contain a superabundance of high-class blossoms, which never show center. **\$10.00.**

"SUNNY JIM" ROLPH (Bessie Boston). (Illustrated.) S. or H.C. "This monster Californian is on the border line between informal decorative and semi cactus. With us it is one of the best of the new western varieties. A brilliant color combination of gold and orange flame. We are glad to report that this namesake of the Governor of California is with us a spectacular dahlia." (ROLL OF HONOR, THE AMERICAN HOME, 1931.) This dahlia won two prizes at the last Virginia Dahlia Society's show: Best Californian, and Best Bessie Boston Variety. Governor Rolph named this dahlia at the fifteenth dahlia show in the Palace Hotel, while he was serving his twentieth consecutive year as Mayor of San Francisco. And now our description of the dahlia: The flower is huge, and of a wonderful color of gold, with a suffusion of flaming orange. To a casual observer, the flower is afire with the deeper color in the sunlight. Seen under artificial light, it looks as if there were a fire beneath it. This effect is produced by the flame color reverse, extending half-way up the petals from the center. This is a slightly incurved form of hybrid cactus. It was one of the first three or four dahlias to start blooming in our Highway garden. The crop of blooms was immense, and centers remained closed all season. Stems are good. Bushes are medium height, branching and leafy, and the foliage is coarse and abundant. **\$10.00.**

TOMMY ATKINS (Bessie Boston). I.D. There was never such a startling color—flaming scarlet—so full of metallic lustre that it fairly glistens in the sunshine. The large deep blossom is attractively formed, and is not stiff and formal. The stem is stiff, and it blooms very early and continuously. **\$1.50.**

TOPAZ (Bessie Boston). F.D. This is a big flower, grown on the stiffest and straightest stem there is. Bushes grow low, but not dwarf, and will bloom very early in the season, continuing to produce flowers in abundance. Flowers grow straight out of the bushes on exceedingly long stems. The coloring is most distinctive, cream and amber, heightened by a reverse of soft, sunset pink, but the general effect of the flower is a deep, dull old gold. **\$4.00.**

ULRICA (Bessie Boston). I.D. Violet, with a silver reverse. The long petals twist and turn and show a bit of the silver lining; particularly observable at the center of the flower. Very large and very deep; borne on a perfectly stiff stem. A color which combines charmingly with lavenders. **\$3.00.**

UNUSUAL (Bessie Boston). S. or H.C. Base coloring is cream, heavily suffused with the deepest shade of cerise pink. Every petal is heavily tipped with this odd coloring. The large blossom is incurved with closely rolled petals. Stem is stiff and strong. The tall plants produce freely all season. **\$2.50.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

ALL TYPES—(Continued)

VALENTINO (Bessie Boston). F.D. Nine blooms of this variety, shown on three-foot stems, took a first prize in the 1931 New England Dahlia Society's show. It was also judged the best dahlia of any other color than red, pink or yellow, in the 1931 show of the Dahlia Society of San Francisco. This is one of our favorite flowers, and one of our most popular introductions. We have received innumerable letters from everywhere praising it. Derrill W. Hart once wrote of it: "A luscious colored dahlia of creamy salmon shading to rose pink. A large flower on good stems and one of the most attractive combinations." The color is true salmon pink shading to cream at the center. The flower has enormous size and attractive form. Stem is long and upright and grows out of bushes of medium height. An early and free bloomer. **\$4.00.**

VARIABLE (Bessie Boston). F.D. The first crop of flowers are a dark, warm red. Then will come a crop of flowers which are (according to Ridgway's chart) a true purple, in our eyes it is heliotrope. As these die out another crop of the maroon blooms will come on, and so on throughout the season. The blooms are immense, and of a most attractive form. Petals are long, wide and curling. The flowers grow at the top of the stem, which is long and stiff. Blooms very freely at all seasons. **\$4.00.**

VIVANDIERE (Bessie Boston). P. Cerise carmine, shading lighter at the tips of the petals. An immense deep peony, with the center surrounded with petaloids. The stems are excellent. **\$1.00.**

W. H. WAITE (Bessie Boston). S. or H.C. An immense hybrid cactus of absolutely perfect form. Color is shell pink, shading to a cream center, and the flower is carried erect on a stiff stem. The artistic weaving and interweaving of the long, curling petals, combined with the rare, delicate coloring, make this variety an outstanding production in our years as an introducer. This enormous dahlia has been winning laurels for us since its "debut" in 1927 at the Palace Hotel show. Bushes grow tall and branching. Leaves are large and "insect resisting." Our bushes start to flower very early, and are full of blossoms until late. Midseason and late flowers retain their perfect form. **\$15.00.**

YUKON (Bessie Boston). F.D. Very distinctive coloring of royal purple, with a blue light running through it. A large but not immense flower, with a stem hard and stiff. **\$1.00.**

ZANTE (Bessie Boston). S. or H.C. Gold, heavily suffused with apricot pink. The center is of the deeper shading. The coloring remains true all season, but the gold deepens as the season advances. The blooms are very deep and very large. The stem is stiff as a poker and holds the flower erect. **\$1.00.**



Pompon Dahlias—New and Old

AIMEE (Bessie Boston). A wee flower of bronze; coloring is entirely new and charming. Blossoms freely on exceedingly long stems. **50c.**

AMBER (Bessie Boston). Pure amber color. Excellent form, but early blooms are not perfect. **50c.**

BANTAM (Hennig-Bessie Boston). Very dainty. Small and well formed. Very long stems. Floriferous. Novel color of brownish red. **75c.**

BILLEE (Bessie Boston). Small scarlet bloom of the best form for exhibiting. **\$1.00.**

DANDY (Bessie Boston). Perfect orange in every respect. Small, well formed and free. **75c.**

DEE DEE (Estes). Decidedly good. Small. Well formed pale lilac. **50c.**

GLOW. Charming old rose; greatly in demand. **50c.**

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

POMPON DAHLIAS—*New and Old (continued)*

- HAZEL DELL (Hodgens).** A charming pink which will be found excellent for cutting. Good form. **75c.**
- HELEN ANITA (Feeney).** Pale lavender shading white to the center. Very pretty and free flowering. **75c.**
- JOHNNIE.** One of the tiniest of all; very dark red. **50c.**
- LEDA BEELER (Hodgens).** Tiny, compact lavender with very long stems. **75c.**
- LITTLE CHAMPAGNE (Bessie Boston).** New 1931. A miniature decorative—about an inch and a half in diameter. Dull gold, suffused with copper. **\$1.00.**
- LITTLE DAVID (Twitchett).** The deepest shade of orange. Small, perfectly shaped blossom. Very free blooming. One of the best. **50c.**
- LLOYD HICKMAN (Hodgens).** A distinct new color of old rose. An exceptional cut flower because of its length of leafless stem. **75c.**
- MARY (Bessie Boston).** Pale lavender, deepening toward the center. Well formed and small. **75c.**
- MIKE (Bessie Boston).** A charming new color of burnt orange, shading lighter at the outer petals. Flower is small and round. A profuse bloomer. **75c.**
- ROYAL (Hodgens).** New 1931. Deep purple; of medium size. A much-needed color. **75c.**
- SALLY (Hodgens).** Small, shell-like petals of cream, delicately flushed pink. **75c.**
- TOM (Bessie Boston).** Small and compact flower of bright yellow, tipped sunset red. Produces masses of blossoms. **50c.**
- YELLOW GEM (McWhirter).** Yellow. Very free flowering, and the best of its color for cutting. **50c.**



Order Suggestions

Order Early—Order early to prevent disappointment.

Substitution—We do not substitute excepting by permission.

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Terms—Remittance with order. We prepay transportation on all retail orders.

Culture—With every shipment we enclose growing instructions.

Seeds and Bargains—See announcement on opposite page.

GUARANTEE—We guarantee our unpropagated roots are true to name and in strong growing condition when shipped. But we do not guarantee very early shipments used for propagating.

BESSIE BOSTON DAHLIA FARM
SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER



Semi or Hybrid Cactus Dahlia "Sunny Jim Rolph"

JOIN US

The Dahlia Society of San Francisco has doubled its membership in two years. It was begun five years ago by the most prominent commercial and amateur growers around San Francisco Bay, but soon branched out to include members from everywhere. California membership is \$2.00 a year and out-of-state membership \$1.00. Address the Secretary, Elizabeth W. Lymbery, 126 El Camino Real, San Mateo, California.

Seeds ✧ Seeds

The Bessie Boston seeds have been making good. Thank God for that! When we first offered them for sale, we did so with sinking heart, and frankly said seed growing was a gamble. Our seedling patch last year was limited, owing to the big sale, but we never had such splendid results. If we had planted the usual 10,000 seeds, we would have been swamped, but we can't sell seeds and plant them in abundance. We sell what we plant, except that we try out a few new parents every season. If they prove good, we include them in our sale packages. Many excellent varieties do not produce seed. No, we do not sell seed from any one parent. Why? That's a trade secret! There is no use telling the world what varieties produce the best seedlings.

Thanks to all who have written us of their results.

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 50 seeds | \$2.50 net |
| 100 seeds | 5.00 net |

Bargains

In our last catalogue we offered bargains for the first time, and people with limited incomes bought them. Every root was labelled with the name of the variety, and they were chosen so color and type were well balanced. The result, judging from letters received, has been splendid. Every dahlia grower has both short and surplus stocks and, of course, surplus stock goes into bargain collections.

We sell these collections of 12 different varieties at \$10, \$15, \$25 and upward. They represent at least fifty per cent more than the catalogue value. Our selection.



Formal Decorative Dahlia "Cherub"

BESSIE · BOSTON · DAHLIAS
1932